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Carson Announces Appropriation Request For Tar Creek Clean Up
Congressman Calls University Of Oklahoma Effort
"Wonderful Second Step"

Washington, D.C. --

Eastern Oklahoma Congressman Brad Carson (D-OK) unveiled a plan today to appropriate money for the University of Oklahoma to conduct and develop technologically sound and sustainable solutions for cleaning up a 26 square mile geographic area within the 46 square mile area at Tar Creek. The $2.5 million appropriation will fund the first year of a three year long effort totaling over $9 million towards cleaning up the Tar Creek area.

"The University of Oklahoma demonstration project is a wonderful second step to cleaning up the land around Tar Creek, after the people have been relocated," said Congressman Carson. "I am excited about the potential of this project and therefore, have committed to asking for the entire $9 million over a three year period to fully fund the clean-up effort."

"The first step to solving the problems at Tar Creek is to buy out the people of Picher and Cardin. I am excited to support this second step towards cleaning up the land, let it not be mistaken that it is not a substitute for buying out the people of Picher and Cardin before any further risk to health or safety is incurred," said Congressman Carson. "The towns of Picher and Cardin are not targeted for clean-up in this effort, simply because every scientific and technical expert acknowledges that the effort is too great. This project deals with the outlying Tar Creek area and does not directly deal with the ground zero towns of Picher and Cardin."

"This will target remediation in 26 of the 46 square mile area affected by contamination," said Congressman Carson.

The OU project will focus on 5 different focus areas:

1) Surface Water Demonstration – Treat mine discharges with treatment wetlands to remove metals loading to surface water. Monitor treatment to provide information that

can be used to treat other mine discharges in the area. Clean out 1.78 miles of mine waste from streambed.

2) Mine Waste Clean-Up – Remove and revegetate an estimated 318 acres of chat and mine waste residuals in the area. Chat may be used as fill or will be stockpiled for economic reuse.

3) Paving City and County Roads – Pave 15.13 miles of unpaved roads, using chat in asphalt to reduce dust and to reduce stockpiles of chat. Demonstrate optimum chat in asphalt mix designs.

4) Remove Mining Hazards, Improve Surface Features – Map and verify open and deteriorating shafts and close permanently. Cover some shafts with grating to preserve sampling points as needed. Fill subsidence areas, cap and vegetate.

5) Mine Water Modeling/Environmental Monitoring – Mine water movement will be traced, mapped and modeled to assess the effect(s) of filling in area sink holes.

"All of these steps are very aggressive towards rehabilitating the land around Tar Creek," said Congressman Carson. "However, to fully achieve the objective and to be able to say that the land is free of contamination and rehabilitated is years and years down the road. We cannot afford to let another generation of children be raised in an environment that leads to higher blood lead levels, learning disabilities and potential immediate risk to safety due to cave-ins."

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